

26647

**Baptists. South Carolina. Bethel Association, 1794.
Minutes ... at ... Fair Forest ... the 9th of August,
1794.**

[Charleston, 1794.] 8 pp.

JCB copy.

M I N U T E S

OF THE

B E T H E L A S S O C I A T I O N,

*Held at the Baptist Church in Fair Forest, in Union County, South-Carolina, begun
on Saturday, the 9th of August, 1794.*

1. **T**HE two first days were employed, as usual, in the public exercises of devotion.
2. On Monday, 10 o'clock, A. M. the introductory sermon was delivered by Brother Abraham Marshall, from Ezek. 1. and 21st. "*For the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.*"
3. Letters from thirty-nine churches were read, and the names of their delegates enrolled.
4. Brother James Fowler was chosen moderator, and brother William Ford, clerk.
5. The minutes of the Charleston Association, with their letter for the last year. Likewise, a letter from the Georgia, and minutes from the Portsmouth Associations were read. Brother Abraham Marshall appearing as the messenger of the Georgia Association, was accordingly received. The messengers from the Charleston Association did not attend. The ministering brethren, provisionally present, (not delegates) were also invited to a seat.
6. Eleven churches applied for admission into this association, and on satisfactory information of their faith and practice, were received by their delegates.
7. Agreed, that it be recommended to all the churches in union to observe the first Wednesday in October next, as a day of solemn fasting and prayer to God, to implore his mercy on all our churches; that a revival of religion may take place in the minds of careless professors, and a general reformation among the people of these United States.
8. Agreed, that brother Alexander M'Dugal prepare the circular letters; that Bayles Estles write to the Georgia, and David L. Ely to the Charleston Associations; and John Waller to the General Committee in Virginia.
9. The committee appointed last year, to enquire into the state of Genesee church, report, they find it extinct.

10. Agreed

10. Agreed that a committee be appointed to take up the *queries* that were laid over at our last session, and also two that appears in letters directed to the present meeting, and give their opinion to the association to-morrow. The committee appointed are our brethren Waller, Fowler, Shackelford, Lilly, M'Dougal, Estes and Ford. Adjourned 'till to-morrow, 9 o'clock, A. M.

T U E S D A Y, met according to adjournment.

11. The committee appointed the last evening, reported the following answers to the queries in minute the 12th of the last year. 1st. What shall be done with negro professors that have been married (in their way) and separated by compulsion: May they marry while their husbands or wives are yet alive? Answer, we find such difficulties attending this question, arising from the nature and existence of slavery, that we judge it best to leave it to the discretion of every church to decide on, as it may become a matter of concern to them; but advise that christian masters use the utmost care to prevent such separations, which give occasion to the query. 2). Where a master and negro servant are both members in a gospel church, is the master justifiable in correcting the servant with stripes for disobedience? Answer, both masters and parents (while the children are in their non-age) have a right to govern their household, and to use the rod, if need be; yet are subject to the discipline of the church, for cruelty or oppression. Minute 14. Can a person who hath been baptized by a pedobaptist, by immersion, on profession of his faith, be received a member in fellowship, without being rebaptized? Answer, we think there are some circumstances wherein he may be received without being rebaptized. Minute 16. What authority have we to give the appellation of reverend to a minister of the gospel? Answer, we conceive terms which are proper and expressive of character, are, on all occasions, lawful or according to the scriptures; and, as reverence is acknowledged to belong to the character and office of a gospel minister, and such are declared to be worthy of double honor, we conceive it may be consistently used; yet, if it should give offence to weak brethren, it would be better, in such cases, to omit it. The appellation of brother, in transacting religious concerns, is more directly after the example of the scripture.

Query from Cambridge church. Which is the most eligible way of governing churches, by the decision of a majority, or by unanimity? Answer, by unanimity when practicable; but, by majority is, in many cases, necessary. Query from Bush River church. Can a member be held in fellowship, that hath conveyed his property out of his hands, in order to prevent his creditors from recovering their lawful demands. Answer, he cannot.

12. On motion, agreed, that the answers, given by the committee, to these queries, be adopted as conveying the sense of this association; excepting the query relating to baptism, the majority being of opinion, that the regular baptism of the administrator, and his sentiments in favor of believer's baptism, are necessary to the right administration of the ordinance to any subject.

13. Voted, that the corresponding associations be addressed on the subject of forming a general committee.

14. Voted,

14. Voted, that brethren Richard Shackelford, Joshua Palmer, Joseph Logan, Moses Holland, James Chastain, and Alexander Davison, be a committee to enquire into a matter of grief subsisting between Middle Fork, Saluda, and head of Suoree churches, and report their proceedings at our next meeting.

15. Supplies to the vacant churches that made application: to Stephen's Creek, John Waller, Richard Shackelford, and David Lilly. To Bull-Town, Stephen Gafford, and John Buiger. To Cedar Spring, Alexander M'Dougal and Richard Wood. To a branch of Pacolet church on Fishing creek, James Fowler and Davies Collins.

16. The circular letter, and the letters to the corresponding associations, and also the letter to the General Committee in Virginia, were brought forward, read, and approved.

Voted, that brethren James Fowler and Davies Collins, be our messengers to the Charleston association, to convene the Saturday before the first Lord's day in November next, at Flat creek meeting house, on Lynch's creek; and brethren Richard Shackelford, Alexander M'Dougal, and David Lilly, to the Georgia Association, to convene at Kioka meeting house, Saturday before the third Lord's day in October next.

17. Voted, our next session of association be held at the Baptist church on Jamey's creek, Spartanburgh county, the second Saturday in August next. The delegates are desired to attend on that day to give in their letters; brother Joshua Palmer to preach the introductory sermon, and in case of failure, brother David Lilly to be prepared. Brother John Waller to prepare the circular letter: the subject, an answer to the question, wherein is the faith of a real christian, distinguished from that of a formal professor?

18. Made collection for printing the minutes, and requested brother Fowler to superintend the business as usual.

Concluded by exhortation and solemn prayer.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

The Ministers names are in capitals; Licensed Preachers in Italics; Churches distinguished with an asterisk (*) we had no account from, their numbers stand as they did the last year; Pastors or Messengers, to whose names a dash (—) is fixed, denotes a vacancy.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Baptized.	Rec. by Letter.	Dissolved.	Ex-communication.	Deaths.	Members.
Buffalo,*	JOSEPH CAMP.						0
Tyger River,	{ —————, George Brutan, William Ford.	3	4	2	1		21
Green River,	DANIEL BROWN, John Blakewell.	8	2	1	5		22
Bill's Creek,	—————, John Owensby.	1	2	2			10
Buck Creek,	JOHN HIGHTOWER, William Garret.	43	6	32			17
Head of Enoree,	{ JOSEPH LOGAN, DANIEL FLANNERY.	2	7	10	5	1	112
Sandy Run,	{ —————, Alexander Davison, John Jones.		2	2	0	1	2
Fair Forest,	{ ALEXANDER M'DOUGAL, Obadiah Howard.		4	1			2
Padget's Creek,	JOHN PUTMAN, William Woolbanks.	1	4	1			10
Mountain Creek, N. C.	PERMINTER MORGAN, Wm. Green.	3	5	3	7		112
Bigg Creek,	{ MOSES HOLLAND, Peter Graham, J. M. Cutchen.	10	22	2	1		10
Horse Creek,	—————, Daniel Ford.		1		4		1
Cedar Spring,	{ —————, Jesse Connel, Joroyal Barnett.	1	6				27
Upper Duncan Creek,	JOSHUA PALMER, Roger Brown.	4	9	2			4
Pacolet,	RICHARD WOOD, Samuel M'Creary.						
Lower Duncan Creek,	—————, Rueben Roculen, Abner Catey.	2	1				7
Jamey's Creek,	{ RICHARD SHACKLEFORD, Joseph Woodruff.	18	9	2	4		1
Sandy River,	{ JAMES FOWLER, Churchill Carter, William Bell.						
Bush River,	—————, Jesse Brooks.	1		3			1
Sisona,*	WILLIAM MURPHEY, Joseph Price.						1
Rockey Creek, Catawba,*	EDWARD PIGG.						1
Big Branch Enoree,	—————, Joseph Woolbanks.	1	2				10
Middle Saluda,*	JOHN CHASTAIN, Benjamin Stuart.						10
Little River,	{ —————, James Crocker, Cadon Ghent.	5	3	2	1		27
Enoree,	{ JACOB KING, JESSE OWEN, Edmund Gains.		2		1		81
French Broad River.	RICHARD NEWPORT.		1				27
Rockey Creek,	{ —————, Henry Robertson, Elisha Majors.		2	7	3	1	17
		103	94	141	41		1826

